the labour will be returning and what would be the real situation at that time are things that cannot be foreseen exactly now. We might more or less keep the point so-to-say in mind and just leave things for the time being where they are. We might keep things in mind and do some preliminary work in the matter of the improvement of irrigation, and plans of that kind, and when the actual moment comes and when something more has to be done, we can by utilising all our resources find a way out. We are resourceful enough for that purpose and we have always been able to meet situations as they emerge. I do not think any more marked assurance is called for from the Government on this question. The question is certainly very important and Government are alive to the implications raised by the resolution.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I do not think I am called upon to meet the argument of Mr. Salem, "I am satisfied if I get sugar": It represents an epicurean mentality. What was the argument he advanced? Nobody can understand it. What a wonderful relief from Mr. Salem to the Hon'ble Secretary to Government! There was practically no opposition raised to this matter at all. Though there is general agreement on this point, I thought Government may bestow their thoughts upon this question. That is the object with which I tabled this motion. Since there is general agreement, I believe Government will accept it.

Resolution, put and carried

RESOLUTION No. 14

Shifting of the Anchal Office at Chalakkudi

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I move that "*The Council recommends to Government that the Anchal Office at Chalakkudi may be shifted to a central place in the Bazaar, thereby releasing the present Anchal Office building for the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools to be created shortly.*"

The Anchal Office at Chalakkudi is situated in a corner of the town. The busy part of the town is in one place and the Anchal Office is about one mile from there. I have brought this subject before in the form of questions and resolutions and the people of the locality have also sent petitions requesting Government to shift the Anchal Office to a central place for the convenience of the business people. Regarding the latter part of the resolution I do not press it. The present Anchal Office building may be utilised for any purpose Government think fit. It may either be rented but it cannot be used as an Anchal Office. So, I request Government to kindly look into the matter and shift the Anchal Office to a central place.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* Is there any Anchal Office at Meloor?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* No.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* Then it can be shifted to Meloor.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It has been where it is now for the last 30 years and Government are reliably informed that if it is changed suddenly from where it is now, it is likely to be protested very strongly by the people of the locality. Therefore Government regret that they cannot accede to the request.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* There are so many things in Chalakkudi which are removed. For instance the trunk road which has been there for the last 30 years. It is now changed. The Anchal Office was started under the existing conditions then. Now conditions are changed. Chalakkudi is changing. I wonder what the Hon'ble Member for Mukundapuram Ezhuvas has to say to shift it to Meloor. I request Government to reconsider the matter. The people have sent petitions to the Superintendent of Registration and Anchal before. The Finance Member knows it. He has received the petitions himself for shifting the Anchal Office. I know the difficulties of people there. I will be very glad if it is shifted to Meloor. But I do not want that. Meloor is not a big place. I do not want to press this motion. I request the Government to reconsider the matter.

Resolution, by leave withdrawn

RESOLUTION No. 15

Legislation for stopping begging, etc.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I move that "*This Council recommends to Government that appropriate legislation may be passed whereby begging shall be stopped and disabled beggars may be maintained and able beggars made to work in work-houses by each local authority so far as the beggars within the area of their authority are concerned and that vagrant beggars may be transported to their respective places of origin*"

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Under the soporific influences prevailing in this house now it is difficult to make any speech at any length whatsoever. Therefore I will state the matter in a few sentences just to state my points. It is really a pitiable state that most of the streets of our towns are infested with beggars. One has only to go to Trichur and go round "the round" to see what exactly is happening. And if you pass along the road from Nayar Angadi to Chetti Angadi any evening, you will find lots of cooking pots by the sides of the road and later you will find the beggars sleeping on the road, on the verandahs of buildings and in the Thekkinkad. A closer examination will show that almost all of them are suffering from some of the most noxious diseases. During the day they go and pollute all the houses where there are little children. The result is that disease also follows. I know this House has been agreed on this point that a speedy remedy is necessary. At the instance of several Hon'ble Members this matter was brought before the Government. Then the complaint of the Government was that there was no concrete suggestion. I am now placing before you a concrete suggestion. In the first place, I say, begging should be prohibited by penal laws. Anybody found begging on the streets should immediately be arrested. Then the question is what should be done with the persons arrested. I say for that, find out their places of origin. If they come from Travancore, send them back to Travancore; if they come from British India, send them back to British India. If they come from Mattancheri, send them to Mattancheri. If they come from Trichur, send them to Trichur. In the case of those who are destitute and are unable to maintain themselves, maintain them. Those who are ill, treat them. And those who are able to work, make them work by giving them appropriate work suitable to the place. For example, take the coastal regions. There is any amount of cocoanut husks. Put them to work on them. If they are good workers, give them more work, give them more wages. This is just the problem which I will put forward before you. That is what is being done in England where vagrancy is prohibited. If necessary collect a local tax. I should think that the rich people who are spending a lot of money happazardly on beggars will be immensely pleased if they are asked to pay something in exchange. Ask the Panchayats to levy a tax, if necessary, and then collect the money. Ask them to maintain the beggars. I daresay the Panchayatdars will certainly consider it as a charitable act and a religious duty to see that these people are maintained there. To me it appears it is a very serious problem which has to be tackled and can be tackled only in this way. If Government will say that they are unable to accept any constructive suggestions, I can only pity them. I think they will accept this resolution.

*Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South):* In seconding the resolution, I have to say a few words. It is true that there were several efforts made in several parts of this country to solve this problem of the beggar question. But on account of appropriate legislation calculated to co-ordinate its desultory efforts, the beggars could not have been given proper reliefs. In several places they attempted to touch the fringe of it. They have not been able to proceed with the work on account of an appropriate law. For example if any effort is made either to feed the entirely disabled people or to give work for those who are able-bodied, that attempt cannot succeed, unless there is a uniform and well co-ordinated policy for the whole country. It is not very easy to repatriate the beggars without the aid of a very strict legislation and without all the sanction of the Government behind it. At Trichur some statistics were collected with a view to see how the beggars there can be given any relief. Unfortunately when it came to a question of actually dealing with the problem it was found that beggars had flocked to that place from several parts of the country and it was impossible to deal with them on the basis of the statistics obtained. Therefore, a legislation is necessary penalising beggary and also attempting repatriation and localising beggars of a particular locality and in the absence of such a legislation in attempting to touch this problem it will be a failure. With regard to funds, the Hon'ble member for planters suggested that there are several methods. In fact, I think that along with the great increase in the earnings of the people of this country, there will be voluntary contributions from some of the people who had occasion to come by large funds. The difficulty is not in getting funds but in giving it. Practically taking into account all the beggars of the country and their means, providing poor-houses, providing work-houses for the able-bodied beggars these things cannot be tackled by local authorities separated by the rest of the country and the rest of the machinery of the administration. I would, therefore, endorse all the views expressed by the planter member on that point and request Government to have a co-ordinated machinery, one machinery taking into its working the local authorities. In the absence of one co-ordinaded machinery it is not psssible for any local authority to do anything in this direction. Any desultory effort is deemed to fail.

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I would support this resolution, and in doing so I would submit a few more facts for the consideration of the House. It is a well-known fact that a rationing scheme has come into operation and in the near future it may be a case of rationing throughout the State. It is also yet another fact that whatever may be the inclinations of the landholders and cultivators Government have called and are actually obtaining from them whatever balance there remain after their ample or even an efficient literal solution of their starvation,—just what remains after what is absolutely necessary for their maintenance. In that view, the question of the beggar problem—as everybody will begin charity at home rather than abroad, is to be a very serious problem, relating to the maintenance of the beggars in the villages as well as in towns. That being the case, it becomes absolutely essential to prevent begging as also to see that criminal action is not brought into a culmination to maintain these people. Unless an essential legislation is passed to that end, it is impossible to tackle that problem with anything like efficiency. It is therefore most incumbent upon Government to see at this juncture—when all the foodstuffs and everything is under the control of the Government, to be distributed on a statutory basis, those who are to live upon alms are also provided for. As suggested by Mr. Mathai I would submit that Government will please see that the authorities who are now ruling the villages will also be responsible to see that those who are disabled or unable to do work, do not starve. In this matter no pains can be spared and the question of making the funds are, as suggested by the Hon'ble member, well in the hands of Government. There may be a decrease in the number, of beggars there may be voluntary contributions and all those resources. At the sweet will and pleasure of Government they may impose an additional taxation and do whatever they please. I strongly recommend this resolution as one which ought to be accepted by Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I have great pleasure to support the principle underlying this resolution and before I do so, I have very great pleasure to congratulate the Hon'ble members who have given their suggestions at their maiden speeches. This is a matter in which I am very much interested and I have brought the subject before this House. I have read a good deal about the activities of a department in Travancore in Kottayam, one Mr. Kuruvila is very much interested in this. In our State also, in Ernakulam there is a system of issuing cards. It is all found very successful. There should be a statute prohibiting beggary. There should be an all-India legislation. There is no good in having a legislation for Cochin State alone. We find in the Ernakulam market so many beggars. We are unable to find their native land. Therefore, beggars should be treated as international property. Therefore, wherever beggars are found the State should feed them. So, this is a question which our State itself cannot solve it. To my mind, I have got some 2 or 3 practical suggestions. Beggars can be divided into 2 categories—disabled and able-bodied. For the able-bodied, there should be colonies and for those who are suffering from diseases there should be poor homes. There should be law enabling the executive officers to do all these things. Then the question is how to find money for these. By taxation and by voluntary contributions. It is a very necessary thing. From the beginning of the world beggars are existing. We cannot solve this problem for any future time. This is a recurring problem and every generation will have to solve it, and we must pay additional tax for this purpose. Therefore, what I suggest is at fixed centres there should be colonies for beggars and also poor homes and to these colonies whenever able-bodied beggars are found they should be removed and they should be asked to do some work and to meet their expenses out of that, and the poor home is for the infirm and the sick. And there should be a central authority for the working of these colonies and poor homes and they must have authority by statute. An All-India statute should be passed, under that a central board should be appointed and then that board may organise—a similar organisation like All-India Rubber Control. These are some practical suggestions. I leave my suggestions for the consideration of the House.

മിസിസ്സ് കെ. ടി ജോഷ്വാ: ഈ യാചകപ്രശ്നത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു വളരെനാളായി ആലോചിക്കുവാൻ തുടങ്ങീട്ട്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയും ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വളരെ നാളായി ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടും ഇതിനു് ഒരു നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഈ യാചകപ്രശ്നത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വളരെ ഭാഗങ്ങൾ ആലോചിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം സ്ത്രീകൾക്കാണു് moral ആയിട്ടുള്ള പല ദോഷങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാകാവുന്നതു. ചെറിയ പെൺകുട്ടികളും സ്ത്രീകളും ധാരാളമായി ഇവരുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് പലവിധത്തിലുള്ള ദോഷങ്ങളും അവർക്കുണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, പല രോഗങ്ങളും അവർക്കുണ്ടാകാവുന്നതുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഏതെങ്കിലും തരത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ഈ യാചകപ്രശ്നത്തിനു് ഒരു അവസാനം വരുത്തണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

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Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : I beg to assure the House at the very outset that the Government are as anxious as the Hon'ble Members of this House to tackle this problem effectively. But as I stated in the last session it is a very large problem and it requires very large capital. It is not an easy thing to find such an enormous capital ; you will all agree we cannot find it at this time when we are in the midst of a huge war. After the war, Government will take up this question. And apart from the question of funds, there is the question of legislation. Now, if we undertake legislation in our State alone, it will not serve much useful purpose as Mr. Moothedan has rightly pointed out. If it must be effective, it should be a joint legislation by the Madras Government, the Travancore Government and the Cochin Government. Government have bestowed their serious thought over this matter. It will be almost impossible from a practical point of view, to distinguish a Cochinite beggar from a Travancorean beggar. Therefore, unless it is a joint legislation, the net result would be all the beggars from Travancore and from British Malabar will come into Cochin. The first thing to be done in this connection is therefore to consider the possibility of a joint legislation by the three Governments together. This will also take time. As stated by the Hon'ble lady Member, the Government are certainly aware of the great handicaps the female beggars are being put to. I think a proper solution for this would be to have a Brothel Act passed. That will certainly eradicate that evil.

With regard to funds, my friend the planter member suggested the levy of a tax. Levy of any new tax will be always resented by the general public. So, if the Government were to sponsor a bill for the levy of a beggar-tax, surely it would meet with opposition. Perhaps it may not meet with so much controversy, if the Bill comes from the non-official members.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: According to well-known Parliamentary practice, all taxation bills should be introduced by Government.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: You may as well move a resolution then for the levy of a new tax.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : What are you doing with the excess profits tax ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: We require a lot of money now for the A. R. P. and other arrangements. Large amounts are required for our own defence. So, I would respectfully request the House not to press this motion at this particular juncture. I understand this motion has been accepted by the Ministerial party as a party motion. I will certainly request the party to re-consider their decision. After the war, certainly this problem will be tackled. I may also inform the House that with the starting of the aerodrome works in various parts of the State and with the recruitment of men for the Assam Labour Forces, many of the able-bodied beggars have been provided with work. Thus, there is a slight reduction in the total number of the beggars at present. This is a redeeming feature.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: If the Joint Secretary will please come with me I shall show him the figures.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Government are however now willing to consider small schemes. There is a scheme which is now being considered at Kottayam. We got the details of that scheme and we have forwarded the same to the Trichur Municipality for scrutiny. Government are doing all that is possible at present to reduce the acuteness of the beggar problem in our State. They are as much alive as the non-official members themselves regarding the necessity to solve this problem in an effective manner. They will strive their very best in this direction.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I should in the first instance, congratulate the fresh members of this House for the very able performance they have shown in their maiden speeches and I am strengthened, in that I am supported by the Ex-Vice-Chairman of the Trichur Municipality and also the lady member for Trichur who has also had first-hand touch with this problem in Trichur as a member of the Municipal Council. But I regret very much to say that the Hon'ble Joint Secretary is absolutely unconcerned with the whole matter. Why, because he is absolutely irresponsible to this House. He says he has considered the Kottayam project. "The file is in his office" and he says, "there is no money in the Cochin State." How many officers' salaries have been increased ? Is there no money in the Cochin State ? At one time, the Hon'ble Joint Secretary says that the number of beggars, will be so great that it will be impossible to maintain them or to satisfy their requirements. In another place, towards the fag-end of his speach that the number has decreased due to work on the aerodromes. Therefore, I ask him this question, "are you not contradicting your previous statement ? He says "all the beggars are now working in the aerodrome". So, the Hon'ble Joint Secretary is contradicting himself. I ask the question,

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have the beggars in Trichur decreased, have beggars in Mattancheri decreased, have the beggars in Ernakulam decreased?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I object to this kind of speech. I only said that the beggars are a huge number which cannot be tackled. But I said that there is some decrease in that number.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Therefore, every word of the Joint Secretary requires a commentary. He says this is not the time for taking up this question. I ask this house whether this is not the time. Is this not the time when beggars are increasing, when there is no rice, when there is no food? Is this not the occasion?

Then what is the other argument? The legislation for imposing a taxation should come from the non-official side. Is there a more wonderful proposition? Are we here to bring laws for imposing tax or is it for the Treasury Bench? Have you not brought pieces of legislation like the Excess Profits Tax Act, the Income-Tax Act? Are they laws brought by the non-official side? When Mr. C. V. Iyyu brought a bill for imposing super-tax it was said that it is for the Treasury Bench to bring such a legislation. And here is a fundamental proposition that legislation should come from non-officials! I ask, is there no money in Cochin? Is there difficulty to find out places for housing the beggars? If need be, you must convert your Ram Mohan Palace into a home for the beggars. Even before you entertain State guests you must feed the beggars in your country. Cut down the salaries of big officers. Take out the money and feed the poor. Impose a tax upon the rich. Mr. Churchill, is paying 17s. 6d. in the pound out of the 10,000 pounds which he gets as his salary per year. Collect more taxes. Instead of 17s. 6d. in the pound, collect 4 annas in the rupee from the salary of the highly paid officers. Instead of collecting 4 pies as income-tax, at least collect 5 pies from the rich and feed the food-less—Don't allow your unfortunate sisters to contract all the unnameable diseases the existence of which the Hon'ble Member for Medicine knows. I say there is a suggestion thrown out. It is nothing but complete irresponsibility and complete irresponsiveness to say that this is not the time, when you know that this is the proper time and to say that all the beggars round about will come over, which exactly is not the case, because you can prohibit them. Are you not sending away people who are creating unrest here? Is there any difficulty in finding out the place from which the beggars come? Is it difficult for the Cochin State to find out the place a beggar comes from? What is the difficulty? The scheme is easy. The scheme is simple. There is no necessity to go to Kottayam and bring all sorts of files. I strongly press upon the House, and I am glad that I have been supported from all quarters, that this is a vital problem, that this is a pressing problem and that Government should find money by hook or by crook for relief. Should you not uplift the beggars before you lift up the Depressed Classes? I ask, is this not a bigger thing? I say instead of your digging wells, for the Panchayats, instead of giving them libraries, should you not first of all feed the beggars? I would point out to the Hon'ble Minister that we are completly dissatisfied with the irresponsible manner in which the reserved half is behaving. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to see that in his time, his influence and the support of this House should be used to eradicate this problem. Whatever method is necessary, should be used. I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Resolution, put and carried

RESOLUTION No. 16

Adoption of Wardha scheme in Schools

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: വിപ്ലവകരങ്ങളായ മാറ്റങ്ങൾക്കു വിധേയമാക്കാതെ വാർഡാവിദ്യാഭ്യാസപദ്ധതി നടപ്പിലാക്കാൻ പര്യാപ്തമായ ഒരു പാഠപദ്ധതി നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ താമസംവിനാ സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു് ഈ സഭ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനോടു ശുപാർശചെയ്യുന്നു എന്നാണു് ഈ പ്രമേയം. ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസംപ്രദായം ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ നടപ്പായ കാലംമുതല്ക്കില്ലെങ്കിലും, കേവലം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ, തൂലികാചലനോപജീവികളെ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുകയാണു് ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസംപ്രദായംകൊണ്ടുദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതെന്ന പരമാർത്ഥം മനസ്സിലായ കാലംമുതല്ക്കു് ഈ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപദ്ധതി ഇന്ത്യക്കാരുടെ ആക്ഷേപപാത്രമായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാതെ കഴികയില്ല. ഈ ആക്ഷേപത്തിനു് ഒരു പരിഹാരവും ഇന്നോളം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുമില്ല. ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ വളർന്നുവരുന്ന രാഷ്ട്രീയമായ പ്രബുദ്ധതമൂലം ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപദ്ധതി ഇൻഡ്യക്കാക്കു പറ്റിയ രീതിയിൽ ആയിരിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു് നേതാക്കന്മാർക്കു തോന്നുകയും,

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